

SHINING TIME STATION

"PUPPET SCRIPT #1"

BY

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SCENE 1
(AUDITORIUM)

(ON A RAISED STAGE IS A SPEAKER'S PODIUM WITH MICROPHONE. BEHIND IT, A GLITTERY SORT OF CURTAIN. ON THE CURTAIN, AND REPEATED IN FRONT OF THE PODIUM, A SHOW-BIZ "LOGO" -- MAYBE THE CLICHE MASKS OF COMEDY AND TRAGEDY. HOLDING FORTH IS A APPROPRIATE FLEXITON PUPPET -- A POMPOUS "EMCEE" TYPE, TUXEDO CLAD -- WHO BEARS AN UNCANNY RESEMBLANCE TO THE LATE GREAT SAMMY DAVIS JR.)

(HEARD, BUT UNSEEN [AT FIRST] IS THE AUDIENCE -- A PEANUT GALLERY OF MISCELLANEOUS GOOFY PUPPETS.)

EMCEE:

And so, without further
ado, it gives me great
pleasure to introduce a
cat who needs no
introduction -- I mean,
the Music Industry legend
we are honoring here today
... the manager of the
Very Fabulous Shining
Time Station Juke Box
Band ... the discoverer of
the Very Fabulous Shining
Time Station Juke Box
Band ... The Sultan of
Small Change, the Nabob
of Nickel ... the
Cheapest Man in Show
Business ... the one and
only ... My Main Man ...
Jay-Jay Silver!

(CUT TO: PEANUT GALLERY GOING NUTS
CHEERING WILDLY, APPLAUDING.)

(CUT TO: EMCEE BOWING, WAVING,
GESTURING AS J.J. SAUNTERS TO THE
PODIUM. THEY EMBRACE, REACT TO THE
APPLAUSE AS IF SURPRISED, EMBRACE
AGAIN. EMCEE EXITS.)

SCENE 1 CONT'D)

J.J.

Thank you, Mister
Wonderful. And thank
you. my friends. No, No.
You're too kind.
Gracias, amigos! Merci,
mes amis. Please!
Enough!

(HE GESTURES FOR THEM TO CONTINUE
WHILE ALLEGEDLY TRYING TO QUIET
THEM. NONE THE LESS, THEY SETTLE
DOWN.)

J.J. (CONT'D):

You know I had a formal
speech all written and
rehearsed for today, but
then I thought -- "To
heck with that! J.j.,
why don't you just get up
and speak from your
heart?"

(MORE O.S. APPLAUSE, CHEERING.)

J.J. (CONT'D):

I feel humble and yet in
a way pride (PAUSE)
Pound? Prune? TECKY!
Next card, you
incompetent corn flake!

(CUT TO: TECKY, A NERDY LOOKING
PUPPET IN COVERALLS, WHO STANDS
NEAR A HEAP OF AUDIO-VISUAL-ISH
EQUIPMENT. HE IS LOCATED BETWEEN
J.J. AND THE GALLERY, FUMBLING WITH
A SET OF HAND-LETTERED CUE CARDS ON
WHICH WE CAN SEE EVERYTHING J.J.
HAS SAID UNTIL NOW. THE WORD
"PROUD" IS PRINTED SMALL (TO FIT)
ON A CARD -- AND BIG ON THE NEXT
ONE TECKY HOLDS UP.)

SCENE 1 (CONT'D)

J.J. (CONT'D):

proud to be honored by
you all, my close
personal friends, members
of my favorite
organization, the very
famous ...

(CUT TO: TECKY FUMBLING WITH CARDS.)

(CUT TO: PODIUM. J.J. CARRIES ON.)

J.J. (CONT'D):

... well, you know who
you are as well as I do!
Even better, maybe ...

(AS SOON AS J.J. LAUNCHES INTO
THIS NEXT PARAGRAPH, A LOUD SNORE
IS HEARD O.S. THEN ANOTHER. WITHIN
SECONDS, A CHORUS OF SNORES.)

(INTERCUT: AUDIENCE PUPPETS KEELED OR KEELING
OVER.)

J.J. (CONT'D):

And, you know, I can't
help being reminded of a
cute story. One time I
was in Vegas playing golf
with Madonna, Frank
Sinatra and the Beatles.
And I remembered
something Albert Einstein
once told me. He said,
"J.J. my friend ..."

(J.J. IS DROWNED OUT BY THE
SNORING. HE LOOKS AROUND.)

J.J. (CONT'D):

And so, without further
ado -- roll tape! I
said, ROLL TAPE!

(CUT TO: TECKY, NODDING, SNAPS
AWAKE. SEIZES A LARGE ROLL OF
GAFFERS TAPE, ROLLS IT.)

SCENE 1 (CONT'D)

(CUT TO: ROLL OF TAPE ROLLING PAST
PODIUM IN FRONT OF J.J.)

J.J.:

No, you ridiculous
ruttabagga! The video
tape!

SCENE TWO

SONG: "DESPERADO"

SCENE 3
(AUDITORIUM)

(AUDIENCE CHEERING AND APPLAUDING
-- TECKY LIKEWISE.)

(CUT TO: PODIUM. J.J. BEHAVES AS
IS THE APPLAUSE IS FOR HIM.)

J.J.:

The Band. The Juke Box
Band. My band. They love
me. It's a shame they
couldn't be here in
person today -- little
contract dispute
heh-heh-heh nothing
serious ...

(CUT TO: DISAPPOINTED AUDIENCE SIGHING
AWWWW!)

J.J. (CONT'D):

But permit me to
introduce them to you.
First, on piano, Tito.
(PAUSE) That's a cue,
you fumble-fingered
fudge-sickle! Drop the
screen! Drop the screen!

(CUT TO: TECKY, FRANTIC. HITS A
BUTTON ON HIS EQUIPMENT.)

(CUT TO: PODIUM. A SCREEN UNFOLDS
VERY QUICKLY BEHIND J.J. WITH A
CRASH. IT MISSES HIM. JUST. A
BEAT. ON THE SCREEN APPEARS A
STILL "PUBLICITY" PHOTO OF TITO.
AUTOGRAPHED. J.J. STANDS IN FRONT
OF IT, POINTING PROUDLY.)

J.J.:

Yes, Tito. The Maestro
with the Mostest, as I
have dubbed him, and
keyboard artiste
extrordinaire. I'll
never forget my first
unforgettable encounter
with Tito ... It was, in
a word, unforgettable.

SCENE 4

"LITTLE TITO" FOOTAGE.

SCENE 5
(AUDITORIUM)

(J.J. IS ON PODIUM IN FRONT OF
SCREEN WITH TITO PIC.)

J.J.:

And, next but not least,
there's Grace. Grace the
Bass. Amazing Grace, as
I cleverly call her ...
Slide! Slide, you
dimwitted dumpling!

(CUT TO: TECKY, FRANTIC. GETS IT.
RUNS AND "SLIDES" BASERUNNER STYLE
INTO HIS EQUIPMENT.)

AUDIENCE (O.S.):

Safe! Out! He was safe!
Out by a mile!

(CUT TO: PODIUM. THE SLIDE SEEMS
TO HAVE JOLTED THE PROJECTOR. AT
ANY RATE, A STILL OF GRACE IS NOW
SEEN ON SCREEN. J.J., IN FRONT OF
IT, POINTS.)

J.J.:

When I first heard Grace,
I was on the road, in my
car. And there she was.
She was on the radio.
Well, not so much on the
radio as in the radio ...
And you might say I
turned her on ...

SCENE 6
(CAR RADIO INTERIOR)

(GRACE AND
TUBES DO "NEW SONG.")

THE

("NEW RIVER TRAIN?")

SCENE 7
(AUDITORIUM)

(AUDIENCE AND TECKY APPLAUDING,
WHISTLING, CHEERING.)

(CUT TO: PODIUM. J.J. AND SCREEN
WITH NEW PIC -- GRACE & TITO.)

J.J.:

So now I'd signed up
Grace and Tito. I tried
to promote them as the
new Sonny and Cher. But
people seemed to think
one Sonny and Cher was
more than enough. Then I
heard about a dancer.
her name was Waltzing
Matilda ...

(ON SCREEN BEHIND J.J. FLASHES
PICTURE OF BALLERINA DOLL. IT
BEGINS TO TWIRL. WE HEAR "WALTZING
MATILDA" PLAYED. PULL BACK TO
REVEAL DOLL IS ON TOP OF A MUSIC
BOX.)

J.J. (V.O.):

I saw right away that
Matilda wasn't right for
me. There was
something ... mechanical
about her. But I like
what I heard, so I took a
look backstage.

SCENE 8

(MUSIC BOX INTERIOR)

(THE BOYS DO "NEW SONG.")
("WALTZING MATILDA?")

(AT SONG'S END, J.J. -- DRESSED
DIFFERENTLY? -- ENTERS.)

J.J.:

Hi, boys. Silver's the
name, exploiting talent's
the game. You boys are
good.

TEX:

Thank you, sir.

REX:

We think so too.

J.J.:

Too good to be playin' in
a dump like this.

REX:

But the hours are
nice ...

TEX:

And we like the view ...

J.J.:

Boys, boys, boys. I'm
gonna make stars outa you
two boys. Everybody's
gonna know you boy's
names. By the way, boys,
what is your name?

TEX & REX:

Boys.

SCENE 9
(AUDITORIUM)

(J.J. IN ON PODIUM FRONT OF SCREEN
WHICH NOW HAS PICS OF TITO, GRACE
AND THE BOY BROTHERS ON IT.)

J.J.:

And that's how I signed
up the Boy Brothers, Rex
and Tex! Now my band
needed just one thing. A
beat. Not a turnip. Not
a potato. A beat. Get
it? Drums? Boom-boom?

(INTERCUT: TECKY AND THE AUDIENCE
LOOKING AROUND, PUZZLED.)

VOICES:

Vegetables? Groceries?
Roots? What? Huh?

(CUT TO: J.J. AT THE PODIUM
SOLDIERS ON.)

J.J. (CONT'D):

A little squaresville out
there, huh? Not the
hip-arooney, huh, Mister
Wonderful?

(INTERCUT: EMCEE, AT SIDE OF
PLATFORM, POINTING, LAUGHING
HYSTERICALLY.)

EMCEE:

Beat! Potato! Turnip!
You're too much, Man!

(J.J. AT PODIUM.)

J.J.:

And we were fortunate to
find the lovely and
talented Didi. (PAUSE)
Didi! Tecky -- you
blockheaded beefsteak --
hit the projector!

SCENE 9 (CONT'D)

(CUT TO: TECKY WINDING UP AND
SLUGGING HIS EQUIPMENT.)

SCENE 10
(STREET SCENE B.G.)

J.J. (V.O.):

When I discovered her,
she was playing in my
favorite gourmet
restaurant ...

(POPCORN CART WHEELS IN -- DIDI IS
INSIDE, PLAYING AND SINGING -- "NEW
SONG.")

("GET ON BOARD"?)

SCENE 11
(AUDITORIUM)

(J.J., ON PODIUM, STANDS BEFORE
SCREEN FILLED WITH BAND PICS.)

J.J.:

Needless to say, I lost
no time in signing her to
a lifetime contract.
She'd been playing for
popcorn, but I paid her
peanuts. And once the
band was all together, it
wasn't long before we had
our first hit. I said,
hit! that's your cue,
Tecky, you absent minded
aubergine -- I said hit!
Hit! Hit!

(CUT TO: TECKY HEADING FOR THE
PODIUM, DRAGGING A LARGE MALLET.)

(CUT TO: THE AUDIENCE CHEERING
WILDLY.)

SFX (O.S.) THUMP!

SCENE 12

(PUPPET SONG: "OH SUSANNAH")

SCENE 13
(AUDITORIUM)

(EMCEE STANDS WHERE J.J. WAS. ON SCREEN BEHIND HIM, JUKE BOX BAND LOGO. O.S. AUDIENCE CHEERS. EMCEE ACTS AS IF IT'S FOR HIM.)

EMCEE:

The greatest? The
swingin-est! My ginchy-
est! Yeah! Now, my Man
J.J. is takin' five to
rap with his assistant,
you dig? But since you
all dug that tune so very
very much, what say do it
again and all sing along.

(O.S. AUDIENCE CHEERS.)

EMCEE (CONT'D):

All-reet. On the off-
beat. Oddley-ah da-doody
...

(WHILE HE SCATS AND GYRATES WE HEAR
A BAR OR TWO OF THE ORIGINAL
ARRANGEMENT. HE STOPS.)

EMCEE:

Cut! Okay. Maybe that
chart's a little too
jivey for you cats.
Let's take it down and
cool it out. And one,
and two ...

SCENE 14

(PUPPET SONG: "SINGALONG VERSION"
OF "OH SUSANNAH")

SCENE 15
(AUDITORIUM)

J.J. IS BACK ON PODIUM. BANDAGE
WRAPPED AROUND HIS HEAD, BUT HE IS
UP TO SPEED.)

J.J.:

How well I remember our
first big booking. It
was up on Lake Erie. Or
maybe Erie, Pennsylvania.
Anyway, someplace eerie.
We chose the perfect
number to open the show
that night ... (VERY
DELIBERATE AND SLOW) And
now, Tecky, if you would
be so kind as to turn on
the projector? Thank
you.

(CUT TO: TECKY, WITH A FLOURISH, TOUCHES
HIS EQUIPMENT.)

SCENE 15

(PUPPET SONG: "ERIE CANAL.")

SCENE 16
(AUDITORIUM)

J.J. IS AT PODIUM, SWAYING AND
HUMMING TO HIMSELF.)

J.J.:

on the ee-why-ee ca-NAL!
Ooops. Sorry. But I
love that melody ...
Where was I?

(INTERCUT: TECKY HOLDS UP SIGN
READING "TOUR"

J.J. (CONT'D):

Oh, right. Yes, the Juke
Box Band and I hit the
road. Went out on tour.
Have Band Will Travel.
We went by train, mostly.
It's cheaper. Tecky, if
you please?

SCENE 17
(TRAIN EXTERIOR)

(BAND MEMBERS AND J.J. ON THE
MOVING TRAIN SET.)

J.J. (V.O.):

From pillar to post we
went, from hither to yon.
Played to packed houses
in yon. You know, this
great country of ours is
criss-crossed not only by
one steel rail, but by
two -- they run parallel
to each other, so trains
can run on 'em. Darn
clever idea. And what
fun we had together!

(TRAIN SEQUENCE ENDS WITH TRAIN
STOPPED. BAND PUSHES J.J. OFF.
TRAIN STARTS, LEAVING HIM
BEHIND ...)

SCENE 18
(AUDITORIUM)

(J.J. IS ON PODIUM IN FRONT OF
SCREEN WITH TRAVEL GRAPHIC ON IT --
MAP? SUITCASES AND STICKERS?)

J.J.:

We spent so much of our
time on trains, the Band
started doing railroad
songs. Here are three
that have always been
among our favorites, and
we hope you'll get to
like them too. Tecky?
S'il vous plait?

SCENE 19

(PUPPET SONG: "JOHN HENRY.")

O.S. APPLAUSE

SCENE 20

(PUPPET SONG: "WABASH
CANNONBALL.")

SCENE 21

(PUPPET SONG: "CASEY JONES.")

SCENE 22
(AUDITORIUM)

(J.J. ON PODIUM IN FRONT OF SCREEN
WITH TRAIN GRAPHIC ON IT. SHINING
TIME STATION?)

J.J.:

Where ever I go, people
ask me -- "J.J., how do
you do it? What's the
secret of your phenomenal
success with the Band?"
And I say to them -- it's
just something you can't
put a name to. But let's
just call it --
chemistry.

(INTERCUT: AUDIENCE KEELED OF
KEELING OVER AGAIN.)

SFX -- SNORES

(TECKY ASLEEP AGAINST HIS EQUIPMENT.
HE WAKES UP WHEN HE HEARS HIS
NAME.)

J.J.:

Lat me show you what I
mean. Tecky, my trusted
and valued assistant, has
taken some home videos of
yours truly and the band
backstage. Let's listen
in, shall, we?

SCENE 23

(DRESSING ROOM SET)

EVERYONE -- TITO, GRACE, DIDI, TEX
& REX PACKED IN. AT MIRRORS,
TUNING UP -- THEY ARE GETTING
COSTUMED FOR "CAMPTOWN RACES".
SCENE HAS A HANDHELD HOME VIDEO
LOOK.

TITO:

This place is a dump!

GRACE:

It's a worse dump that
the last dump.

DIDI:

(to camera)

Tecky -- can't you tell
J.J. to book us into
some better places?

TEX:

(to camera)

Can't you tell J.J. to
pay us our salaries?

REX:

(to camera)

And TEcky, while you're
at it, ask Tex to stop
using my eyeliner.

TEX:

(to camera)

Tell Rex he's a selfish
dog.

(J.J. BURSTS IN FULL OF BEANS.)

J.J.:

People. People! It's
magic time! I wanna see
energy out there on stage
tonight ...

SCENE 23 (CONT'D)

DIDI:

J.J., this place is an
armpit! Tell 'im Tito.

TITO:

J.J., the boys and girls
aren't happy, J.J. Me
neither. We wanna get
paid, man.

GRACE:

Right on, Tito, baby.
J.J., where's our bread?

J.J.:

I'm afraid I don't
understand the reference
to baked goods, my
dear ...

REX:

J.J.? I quit.

TEX

No, I quit. That's no
fair, Rex, we agreed I'd
quit first.

REX:

Did not.

TEX:

Did too.

GRACE:

This is my last show J.J.

DIDI:

I am outta here!

(A VAMP LEADING INTO "CAMPTOWN
RACES" IS HEARD O.S.)

SCENE 23

J.J.:

Friends, friends -- its
show time! Curtain up,
light the lights! The
roar of the greasepaint
-- your public awaits.
We'll discuss all this
later. There's your cue!
Magic time! Now go out
there and knock 'em dead.
Go! Go!

(THE BAND EXITS. J.J. TURNS TO THE
CAMERA.)

J.J.:

That thing isn't on is
it?

SCENE 24

(PUPPET SONG: "CAMPTOWN RACES.")

SCENE 25
(AUDITORIUM)

(J.J. IS AT PODIUM. ACCEPTS O.S.
APPLAUSE FROM THE AUDIENCE.)

J.J.:

Oh, those artistic
temperaments, huh But did
the Band break up and go
home? Of course not!
Why? They had no money
for train fare! That's a
little management tip for
all you executives out
there, hahaha. And the
next day, they were all
on the set for our very
first music video shoot.
Wanna see it?

(O.S. AUDIENCE CHEERS.)

J.J.:

Okay -- here it is!
(PAUSE) Tecky? Any time
...

SCENE 26

(PUPPET SONG: "POP GOES THE
WEASEL.)

SCENE 27
(AUDITORIUM)

(BAND LOGO IS ON SCREEN. J.J. IS DRAPED OVER PODIUM, SOBBING. HE RISES, CROAKS, SOBS, COLLAPSES AGAIN. EMCEE RUSHES OUT TO HIM.)

EMCEE:

J.J. My Man! C'mon.
What's buggin' you,
baby? Talk to us.

J.J.:
(choked up)

They hate me. They all
do.

EMCEE:

Who hates you?

J.J.:

The Band! That's why
they're not here today.
Not only do they hate me,
they don't even like me.

EMCEE:

J.J.? I've got a
surprise for you, J.J.
Okay, Tecky, let 'em in.

(J.J. LOOKS AROUND WILDLY. WHAT?
EMCEE DANCES WITH GLEE. PAST THE
CHEERING AUDIENCE, LED BY TECKY,
COMES THE WHOLE BAND. [CRAIG -- USE
HANDS AND FEET]. THEY ARE
COSTUMES FOR "MOMMA DON'T ALLOW."
THEY GATHER AROUND J.J.)

J.J.:

People. People! There
is audience here, people.
And you know what that
means? Magic time! Hit
it, Tito!

SCENE 28

(PUPPET SONG: "MOMMA DON'T
ALLOW.")

SCENE 29
(AUDITORIUM)

(AUDIENCE CHEERING WILDLY)

VOICES:

Encore! More! Bis!
Again!

(CUT TO: PODIUM. BAND WAVING. BESIDE
TECKY, EMCEE AND J.J.)

EMCEE:

The GROOVE-iest! J.J.
Silver and the Juke Box
Band! Men? Ladies?
Hats? Cats? I gotta
feeling the folks here
would dig a chance to
sing along with that
swingin' ditty. May we?

J.J.:

Are you kidding, Mister
W.? My people are
professionals. How much?

GRACE:

J.J.? You are too much!
Tito?

TITO:

One. Two. One two three
...

SCENE 30

PUPPET SONG: "SING ALONG VERSION"
OF "MOMMA DON'T ALLOW.")

(TECKY AND AUDIENCE HAVE PARTS, AS
DO "KIDS AT HOME CLAPPING ROUND
HERE".)

(AT FINALE, PANDEMONIUM.)

FADE TO BLACK.